

Trifles Design Worksheet

1. The way an audience perceives the play is shaped by the choice of performance venue, as well as the set that is designed for the play. Indeed, all the elements that you see and hear during a performance are bound to shape your perception of the play. Which of the following venues do you think can best meet the needs of the play?

In my opinion, I think flexible would be a great placement just because this is a crime scene and is more or less fixed in a room. It gives audience a better way to view all the possible items in the scene and for them to clearly see what is being discovered that's been hidden away (i.e the bird box). Since the characters of the play are investigating, having the venue be flexible allows the characters to freely roam around and for the audience to feel intimate with the characters especially considering this is an one-act play. It's important that the audience feels connected to the characters in order to bring up the feeling of empathy towards Mrs. Wright that Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters have and if the audience isn't close up with the characters, that may be impossible to do with just one act.

2. What are some of the challenges posed by the play on the design team?

Since there are indeed multiple rooms that the Attorney walks in and out of, it may be a bit harder to design it in a way to see him investigating as well despite the fact that the two wives stay stationary in the kitchen rifling through Mrs. Wright's belongings. I don't think there may be much difficulty from there on.

3. Choose a character from the play and suggest how she/he should be dressed. In what ways do you think the costume would help accentuate his/her character?

I think Mrs. Hale would definitely dress much more homely than Mrs. Peters and the Attorney since she is primarily a farmer's wife and seems to be the one that's protecting Mrs. Wright by hiding the bird in her pocket. She'd definitely be dressed as they do in the early 1900s with a bonnet mayhaps and an apron loosely tied around her waist. The colors she'd be wearing would be rather neutral since being on a farm does make you dirty, but she'd be very presentable I'd think. She would not be wearing the most expensive clothes, but by no means should her clothes be raggedy at all.

4. Given the content of the play, how might the lighting design help further the mood of the production?

Definitely very grey, dull lighting, as this is a crime scene they're in and it is very cold, implying winter.

5. Suggest music or sound effects that might be used to accentuate the mood or atmosphere of the play and the transitions between parts of the play.

I think playing a song that does not really have a suspecting mood or suspicious tone to it would be great for the beginning of the play, especially since they feel like it's so clear-cut on who committed the crime and they're just there to investigate and take Mrs. Wright straight to the law. However, when the two ladies start to find the quilt and subsequently the box, the music should turn a bit eerie, with some tense backstrings, and then letting it all flow out as they discover the bird and turn to each other in horror. But, when Mrs. Hale is trying to hide the bird, the music should quickly change back to the unsuspecting tone once the Attorney comes into the room, but the audience would know something is up.